

Claims

1. A method of advancing essentially rectangular pieces of cloth (5) to a feeder (60) comprising securing of a piece of cloth (5) in securing means (31) that are configured on a rail conveyor (30); wherein the rail conveyor (30) with the piece of cloth (5) is conveyed in a direction of conveyance (16) on an endless conveyor rail; and wherein the rail conveyor (30) with the piece of cloth (5) is advanced to a feeder 60; and wherein the piece of cloth (5) is transferred to the feeder (60), and a section of an edge on the piece of cloth (5) is found and that the section of the edge is straightened, following which the section of the edge is mounted in the securing means (31), characterised in that the piece of cloth (5) is transferred from a transfer position (14) configured in an inlet station (12) to the securing means (31) in that the securing means (31) are conveyed in between two parallel sandwich conveyor belts (17) configured in the direction of conveyance (16) of the inlet station; and that the straightened edge of the piece of cloth (5) is mounted in the securing means (31) in the transfer position (14) by the advancement by the sandwich conveyor belts of the piece of cloth from a position of introduction (13) configured in the direction of conveyance (16) opposite the transfer position (14).
2. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the piece of cloth (5) is conveyed on the endless conveyor rail (21) with the straightened edge of the piece of cloth transversally of the direction of conveyance (16) or essentially transversally of the direction of conveyance (16).
3. A method according to any one of claims 1 - 2, characterised in that the piece of cloth (5) is transferred from the securing means (31) on the rail conveyor (30) to the feeder (60) in that the straightened edge on the piece of cloth (5) is conveyed in between a superjacent (63) and a subjacent

conveyor belt (64) configured at an end of a bar (65), which bar is arranged transversally to the direction of conveyance (16) on the feeder (60).

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 - 3, **characterised in that** a plurality of pieces of cloth (5) are mounted on each their rail conveyor (30), and that each rail conveyor with a piece of cloth is subsequently taken onto the endless conveyor rail (21), where the rail conveyors with pieces of cloth form a buffer storage.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the rail conveyor (30) with the piece of cloth (5) is conveyed out of the buffer storage for being fed to the feeder (60).

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the rail conveyor (30) with the piece of cloth (5) is conveyed onto a section of the conveyor rail (26b) and is conveyed to another feeder (60).

7. A device for advancing essentially rectangular pieces of cloth (5) to a feeder (60) comprising a rail conveyor (30) with securing means (31), said rail conveyor being configured to convey essentially rectangular pieces of cloth on a conveyor rail (21) in a direction of conveyance (16) between an inlet station (12a, 12b) and the feeder, **characterised in that** the securing means (31) are configured for securing a piece of a straightened edge of the piece of cloth (5); and that the securing means (31) are configured in such a manner as to run between two parallel sandwich conveyor belts (17) configured in the direction of conveyance (16) of the inlet station; and that the securing means are configured to take over the straightened edge of the piece of cloth (5) at a transfer position (14), which transfer position (14) is configured in the direction of conveyance opposite the position of introduction (13).

8. A device according to claim 7, characterised in that the securing means (30) are a pair of conveyor clamps arranged on the rail conveyor (21) at a distance from each other and along an axis (X) which is perpendicular to the direction of conveyance (16) of the rail conveyor (30) or is essentially perpendicular to the direction of conveyance (16) of the rail conveyor.

9. A device according to any one of claims 7 - 8, characterised in that the conveyor clamps (30) are configured for securing the straightened edge of the piece of cloth (5) in a position transversally to the direction of conveyance (16) or essentially transversally to the direction of conveyance (16).

10. A device according to any one of claims 7 - 9, characterised in comprising a buffer area (32a, 32b), said buffer area being configured in the direction of conveyance (16) on the conveyor rail (21) between an inlet station (12a, 12b) and said feeder (60).

11. A device according to any one of claims 7 - 10, characterised in comprising a buffer area (28a) configured on the conveyor rail (21) between the feeder (60) and the inlet station (12a, 12b).

12. A device according to any one of claims 7 - 11, characterised in that the conveyor rail (21) comprises one or more switchings (27).